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SUBJECT: UKRAINE: WHO'S WHO IN THE TYMOSHENKO GOVERNMENT

Classified By: Pol Counselor Kent Logsdon for reasons 1.4(b,d).

11. (C) Summary. The new Tymoshenko government, confirmed by the Rada December 18, is an interesting mix of PM Tymoshenko loyalists and President Yushchenko loyalists, and of experienced politicians and technocratic newcomers. Disagreements over Our Ukraine-People's Self Defense slots between the parliamentary faction and the Presidential Secretariat held up the vote on Tymoshenko and the Cabinet

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for a week -- Yuriy Yekhanurov, now Defense Minister, announced at the last minute that he would not vote for Tymoshenko unless the differences were resolved. The average age in the new Cabinet is 50. Almost half of the Cabinet is from western Ukraine, a big difference from previous Cabinets, but eastern, southern, and central Ukraine are represented as well; there are even three ministers born in Russia. Tymoshenko controls the economic portfolios with the exception of energy, while OU-PSD is in charge of the social ministries and the President retains his purview over foreign affairs and defense.

12. (C) Comment. While some of the ministries will be run by highly-qualified professionals, the fractious nature of the appointment process is likely to be reflected in the work of the Cabinet. Both Tymoshenko and Yushchenko chose ministers who would be personally loyal to them, possibly setting the stage for a struggle for power reminiscent of Tymoshenko's first cabinet of 2005. Ironically, the fragility of the 227-member coalition -- which complicated the Tymoshenko confirmation vote -- may be of some benefit now, as both sides will have to compromise if they want to accomplish anything. End summary and comment.

Naming the Cabinet: Not an Easy Task

13. (SBU) The Cabinet is split 50-50 between ministers nominated by BYuT and OU-PSD, although not all ministers are members of one bloc or the other. In general, BYuT controls the economic portfolios and OU-PSD controls the social and national security and defense ministries, although BYuT gave OU-PSD the Agriculture Minister slot in exchange for the a second deputy prime minister slot for Tymoshenko foreign policy adviser Hryhoriy Nemyria. There is a third deputy prime minister slot, for regional policy, that remains vacant. The press reported the OU-PSD MP Matviyenko, who had expressed doubt about whether the bloc should support Tymoshenko becoming PM, was now lobbying for the job, but Tymoshenko told the press December 18 that she was leaving it open for the possibility of coalition expansion.

14. (C) Six ministers -- Pavlenko, Pynzenyk, Lutsenko, Ohryzko, Melnyk, and Krupko -- are returning to positions they have previously held, while another ten are seasoned politicians. Six have deep background in their fields, but

have never worked for the government. It seems that within the BYuT quota, Tymoshenko has aimed for a mix of ardent loyalists, like Turchynov and Vinskiy, who will protect the PM, and apolitical technocrats to provide good advice, but who might also be easier to control. The OU-PSD quota, much like the faction that named them, is a more motley crew, representing the various parties within the faction, as well as the interference of the Presidential Secretariat. Secretariat Chief Baloha's fingerprints are all over the

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fight over the Education, Justice, and Defense Ministers, as well as the decision to leave Yuriy Melnyk in as Agriculture Minister, despite his alleged corruption and anti-WTO stances.

Oleksandr Turchynov: First Deputy Prime Minister (BYuT)

15. (C) Tymoshenko's right hand man, Turchynov will run all the economic programs for the government and help manage and oversee her government's vision. He is a dogged fighter and will support Tymoshenko in everything she does. In the past few years, Turchynov has run the Security Service (SBU) and served as deputy secretary of the National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) at Tymoshenko's behest, although his educational and work background over the last 17 years has been economic and political. While at the SBU in 2005, Turchynov was allegedly collecting compromising materials on Yushchenko's closest allies; he resigned from the SBU when Tymoshenko was fired in September 2005. Turchynov has been tied to Tymoshenko since the early 1990s, first when he worked as deputy governor of Dnipropetrovsk under Tymoshenko's former business partner Pavlo Lazarenko, and then as co-founder of the political party Hromada in 1993 with Tymoshenko and Lazarenko. Turchynov joined the Rada in 1998, while running Hromada's political council, until Lazarenko was arrested in 1998. Tymoshenko subsequently founded the Batkivshchina party --

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the backbone of BYuT -- which Turchynov helps run; he is also deputy head of BYuT. Turchynov is an ordained Baptist Minister. He was born March 31, 1964 in Dnipropetrovsk.

Ivan Vasyunyk: DPM for Humanitarian Affairs (OU-PSD)

16. (C) Vasyunyk is coming from his post as First Deputy Head of the Presidential Secretariat. His influence there has waxed and waned, but recently he was said to be closely working with Baloha to run OU-PSD's somewhat disastrous parliamentary campaign this September. In addition, he's been said to be working on strategies to get Yushchenko elected to a second term. In the Secretariat, Vasyunyk has been a key point of contact on our MCC Threshold program, and is co-chair of the MCC Threshold Program Board. As DPM for humanitarian affairs, Vasyunyk will have oversight responsibility for most of the ministries run by OU-PSD ministers. Vasyunyk is an economist by profession, and has studied at Harvard and at universities in England and Germany. After teaching management at the Lviv Management Institute, which he helped found, Vasyunyk turned to politics in 2002, when he joined the Rada as part of Our Ukraine. He was born July 7, 1959 in Lviv oblast.

Hryhoriy Nemyria: DPM for EuroIntegration (BYuT)

17. (C) Nemyria will have a tough challenge ahead of him in making his position meaningful. Yushchenko first created a DPM for EuroIntegration in 2005 for his good friend Oleh Rybachuk, but it proved difficult to produce results with ministries such as Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Economy pursuing European integration policies on their own. The Cabinet in Ukraine is structured to give each DPM responsibility for certain ministries, but the previous DPM

for Eurointegration had none and it is hard to see which ministries Nemyria might take charge of now, since MFA and MOD fall under the President and most other relevant institutions are likely to fall under Turchynov's purview.

¶8. (C) Nemyria's position was a last minute deal within the coalition, and BYuT had to give OU-PSD the Agricultural Ministry in exchange for getting agreement on Nemyria. Nemyria is Tymoshenko's foreign policy adviser and has been her intermediary for contacts with Western governments, both in Kyiv and in Europe, which has raised his profile within the bloc; however, he has not been a very publicly prominent member of BYuT in the last two years. Prior to joining the Rada in 2006, Nemyria ran the Soros-financed International Renaissance Foundation, where he also studied European integration issues. An academic by training, in the late 1980s and 1990s Nemyria lectured at Donetsk University, founded the Center for Political Studies, and then served as deputy rector of the highly-esteemed Kyiv-Mohyla Academy in Kyiv. He was born April 5, 1960 in Donetsk oblast.

Volodymyr Ohryzko: Foreign Affairs (President)

¶9. (C) Deputy Foreign Minister Ohryzko's nomination to be Minister appears to be a way for Yushchenko to reassert himself after the Regions-led Rada refused twice to approve Ohryzko as Foreign Minister in February 2005. Ohryzko was former FM Tarasyuk's top deputy and personal choice as a replacement, and we've heard they share some of the same prickly personality traits. Many say Ohryzko is not well liked within the Foreign Ministry -- the diplomatic cadre reportedly was supporting Deputy Minister Khandohiy who also seemed to have been favored by former FM Yatsenyuk over Ohryzko. Ohryzko also has a reputation for fierce anti-Russian views; he stirred up controversy at a conference in Crimea, when he allegedly requested translation into Ukrainian of all comments made in Russian.

¶10. (SBU) Ohryzko is a career diplomat, joining the Foreign Ministry of the Soviet SSR immediately upon graduation from Kyiv State University in 1978. He has served in Germany and Austria, but has spent most of his career in Kyiv. Ohryzko was born April 1, 1956 in Kyiv.

Yuriy Yekhanurov: Defense (President)

¶11. (C) When Yushchenko made the surprise nomination of Yekhanurov to run the Defense Ministry on December 11, several MPs told us that they thought Yekhanurov would be the new "Poroshenko" in the Tymoshenko government, in other words a close Yushchenko ally whose job was to try to keep Tymoshenko's ambitions in check -- Petro Poroshenko filled this role as NSDC Secretary in 2005. Others believed the

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position was the price Yushchenko had to pay to get Yekhanurov's agreement to sign the coalition agreement -- Yekhanurov acknowledged to the Ambassador that although he signed the agreement, he still objected to many parts of it, and it was not clear until the final minute that Yekhanurov would vote for Tymoshenko.

¶12. (C) Former NSDC Secretary Horbulin predicted to us that Yekhanurov would run a tighter ship than his predecessor, Anatoliy Hrytsenko, with financial/workflow controls improving. However, he saw Yekhanurov as lacking the strategic vision that made Hrytsenko an effective reformer and key supporter of NATO membership. First Deputy Defense Minister Polyakov told us that he believed it was Baloha's idea to replace Hrytsenko with Yekhanurov, because the former was too independent and principled, "not a yes-man", implying that Yekhanurov will work more hand-in-glove with the President's team.

¶13. (C) Yekhanurov has a mixed reputation. He was seen as a reformist under President Kuchma, but his 11-month tenure as Prime Minister in 2005-2006 bore mixed results, especially as he was unable or unwilling to derail the January 2006 gas deal, which he claimed he opposed. He is, however, respected by Regions and Lytvyn Bloc, which may have made his appointment more palatable. In our contacts with him, he appears to have a strong personal dislike for Tymoshenko, and has long preferred a broad coalition of Our Ukraine and Regions. Since serving as First Deputy Prime Minister under PM Yushchenko in 2000-2001 and then helping run Yushchenko's successful 2002 Rada and 2004 presidential campaigns, Yekhanurov has remained close to the President. Yekhanurov ran the State Property Fund through the mid-1990s, where he helped guide Ukraine through the early stages of privatization. He was born August 23, 1948 in Yatkutska, Russia; he is an ethnic Buryat.

Iosip Vinskiy: Transportatino and Communication (BYuT)

¶14. (C) Vinskiy was one of the two Socialist who defected to BYuT in 2006 after party leader Oleksandr Moroz made his deal to join Party of Regions in the Anti-Crisis Coalition. Since then Vinskiy has been a key Tymoshenko ally and insider with a full-time job at BYuT headquarters. He rarely talks to us and not often to the press. He was a major participant in the "Ukraine Without Kuchma" movement in 2001, which is probably how he got to know Tymoshenko. He has been a Rada MP sine 1994, always in the Socialist faction, where he served on a variety of committees. His background is in agricultural engineering, but he moved into politics in 1981, working in Ukrainian Communist Party structures and then joining the newly created Socialist Party in 1991. Vinskiy was slotted to be a deputy prime minister, and only moved to the Transportation Ministry on December 17, the day before the Cabinet was confirmed in the Rada. While MPs we spoke with agreed that Vinskiy was a better choice than the original nominee for the job -- automobile magnate Tariel Vasadze -- they expressed concern that he was not well-qualified to run the Ministry, which has some serious issues to tackle. Vinskiy was born January 2, 1956 in Khmelnytskyi oblast.

Viktor Pynzenyk: Finance (BYuT)

¶15. (C) Pynzenyk became close to Tymoshenko when he worked as Minister of Finance in her 2005 Cabinet, although he remained in the Yekhanurov Cabinet when she was fired. Pynzenyk withdrew his Reforms and Order Party (PRP) from the Our Ukraine bloc in March 2006 in an unsuccessful attempt to run in the Rada elections with another minor party, Pora, but later that year PRP formally joined BYuT. He now sits on BYuT's presidium. Pynzenyk has always had a somewhat competitive relationship with Yushchenko, as they were both seen as leading economic reformers in the 1990s. Under President Kuchma, Pynzenyk was variously Deputy Prime Minister for economic reform and head of the President's economic reform council, but it was Yushchenko who was tapped to be Prime Minister in 2000. Pynzenyk is in charge of both the new government's budget proposals and its entire government program, which should be based on the coalition agreement. Pynzenyk understands market economics and as Finance Minister was a strong advocate of budgetary restraint. In our discussions with him, he comes across as a sincere Ukrainian patriot who worries about the future of his country. He has two economics degrees from Lviv University, as well as a doctorate in economics from Moscow's Lomonosov University. He was born April 15, 1954 in Zakarpattya oblast.

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Bohdan Danylyshyn: Economy (BYuT)

¶16. (C) Danylyshyn is an academic who chairs the Council on Researching the Productive Forces of Ukraine, an economic think-tank within the National Academy of Sciences. He is a professor and a corresponding member of the National Academy of Sciences, and has written a wide-variety of economics publications, many focused on municipal and regional development. Presidential adviser Rybachuk told us that Industrial Union Donbas (IUD) co-owner Vitaliy Haiduk had confirmed that Danylyshyn was "his guy"-- the press has reported this as well; IUD is a behind-the-scenes supporter of Tymoshenko. The Embassy has worked with Danylyshyn since 2003 on environmental issues, such as Earth Day and the controversial Danube-Black Sea canal issue. On the latter, he was one of the few within the GOU to oppose construction through the fragile Danube Biosphere Reserve. Affable and receptive to Embassy meeting requests, Danylyshyn struck us as being an idealist far removed from the world of policy-making. These sentiments were echoed by several politicians in the Rada, who told us that Danylyshyn is a nice guy, but has no government experience and is a weak leader. Danylyshyn was nominated by the Embassy in 2005 to participate in an IV program on Sustainable Environmental Policy, but was unable to attend. He was born June 6, 1965.

Yuriy Melnyk: Agriculture (OU-PSD)

¶17. (C) Melnyk is the current minister, having first joined the Yekhanurov government in late 2005 as Deputy PM for Agriculture and moving into the AgMin position under PM Yanukovych in August 2006. When the other orange ministers resigned, he remained under the Communist quota in the Cabinet. He has been called a knowledgeable specialist, but in reality he is seen as a representative of large agribusiness interests, including his own. Melnyk has been at times an open opponent of Ukraine's WTO accession, despite the GOU's clear policy to pursue accession. He went from academia into the Ag Ministry in 1996, where he has worked in some capacity ever since. He is generally considered apolitical. Melnyk has close ties to the Ukrainian Poultry Union (UPU), the most powerful lobby in the Ukrainian agricultural sector, as well as to Ihor Tarasyuk, co-owner of the biggest poultry and egg producer in Ukraine. Tarasyuk is also Director of the Presidential Secretariat's State Administrative Directorate, which manages all property owned by the Presidential Secretariat and NSDC -- many believe that Tarasyuk got Melnyk his job, and that UPU might have made a substantial payment to keep Melnyk in his slot. Melnyk is responsible for implementing policies that benefit the poultry producers, such as restricting exports of feed grains to keep prices lower for domestic firms. He also has implemented administrative measures to control prices, while the Veterinary Service under his Ministry has been reluctant to fulfill WTO commitments (including to the U.S.) to open Ukraine's markets for meat. Melnyk was born August 5, 1962 in Cherkasy oblast.

Vasyl Knyazevych: Health (OU-PSD)

¶18. (C) Knyazevych, uncle of OU-PSD MP Ruslan, has been President Yushchenko's chief doctor since 2005. In November 2006, he was also appointed Head of the Medical Department of the State Affairs Administration. He started his career as a physician at a district hospital in Ternopil oblast. He later served as Chief of the Health Protection Department in the Ternopil Oblast Administration, where he earned a reputation as Western-leaning and open-minded, but also as a poor manager, while participating in a USAID health reform project. Knyazevych is rumored to have strong ties to Petro Bahriy, the head of a local pharmaceutical association, and was supposedly responsible for directing drug and equipment procurement contracts to Bahriy during the construction of First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko's "Hospital of the Future", which was built on land under Knyazevych's authority while serving in the State Affairs Administration. He was born in

March, 1956 in Ivano-Frankivsk.

Yuriy Lutsenko: Interior (OU-PSD)

¶19. (C) Lutsenko is returning to the Ministry that he ran from February 2005 until he was pushed out of office in December 2006. He had been trying to implement reforms in a deeply troubled and corrupt ministry, and received decent marks for his efforts, although his lack of law enforcement background hampered his conceptual understanding of what

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reforms were needed. If he were, however, to be put at the Ministry's helm for a long period of time and surround himself with European-oriented professionals, it is conceivable that some of the necessary reforms would take hold in this 300,000-man institution. However, Lutsenko is unlikely to be there long enough to institute deep change given that he also harbors the desire to become mayor of Kyiv, which he sees as a good jumping-off point to run for President in 2010.

¶20. (C) Lutsenko was a field commander during the Orange Revolution, and has been loyal to Yushchenko ever since, although he remained a leader in the Socialist party until Moroz agreed to go into coalition with Party of Regions and the Communists in 2006. Lutsenko remained in the Yanukovych government at Yushchenko's behest in August 2006, but the Regions-led majority in the Rada and government attacked Lutsenko, ordering raids of his home and the homes of Lutsenko's allies, leaking accusations of corruption, and finally firing him on December 1, 2006. Lutsenko began his own political movement, People's Self-Defense, in early 2007, but has told us numerous times that the September Rada elections came too soon for him to be able to turn it into a real political force, forcing him to join Our Ukraine. There are rumors that Lutsenko is a hard drinker, although we have never seen him act other than professionally. Lutsenko was born December 14, 1964 in Rivne.

Mykola Onishchuk: Justice (OU-PSD)

¶21. (C) Onishchuk's candidacy to be Justice Minister was a major roadblock to final agreement on the Cabinet slate, with many in OU-PSD outraged over his selection to be part of their quota; the decision presumably was made by the Presidential Secretariat. The main objection we heard from MPs was that Onishchuk had been a hold-out in agreeing to sign the orange coalition agreement and to support Tymoshenko, and that he should not be rewarded for "blackmailing" the bloc. In addition, he supposedly worked in 2004 with then Presidential Administration Head Medvedchuk to find a legal justification for giving President Kuchma a third term in office, and leading member of OU, Roman Zvarych, also wanted the Minister position. However, in the end, the OU-PSD faction dropped its objections to Onishchuk.

¶22. (C) Onishchuk has chaired since August, 2007 the National Commission for Strengthening Democracy and Rule of Law -- charged with law enforcement and judicial reform -- where we have found him to be knowledgeable, open to new ideas, politically-astute, and a consensus-builder. He is openly and avidly pro-European. Although a lawyer by profession, he is not well-versed in criminal law, but made good use of allies and experts to make some important steps forward. He graduated from the law department at Kyiv Shevchenko University. Then Onishchuk became the 1st Deputy Head of the Lawyer's Association, under infamous lawyer and Presidential Administration Head Medvedchuk. A longtime member of the Party of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Ukraine (PIEU), Onishchuk also worked as an adviser to party leader Anatoliy Kinakh, when the latter was PM in 2001-2002. When PIEU defected from Our Ukraine to the Anti-Crisis Coalition in March 2007, Onishchuk remained in OU. He graduated from the

law department at Kyiv Shevchenko University. In the 1990s, he worked for a private law firm. He was born October 26, 1957 in Zhytomyr oblast.

Ivan Vakarchuk: Education (OU-PSD)

¶23. (C) Vakarchuk, Rector of Lviv University and father of OU-PSD MP Slava Vakarchuk (Okean Elzy lead singer), was one of the hardest fought-for appointees in the Cabinet. Almost unanimously backed by the OU-PSD faction, the Presidential Secretariat had demanded the appointment of Vasyl Kremen as

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Education Minister. Although Kremen is known as one of the preeminent education experts in the country, he was also a member of the odious Social Democratic Party (united) and served as Education Minister under the first Yanukovych government, where he used his financial resources and position to unfairly campaign for Yanukovych for president in ¶2004. However, Kremen's nomination faced so many objections, the Presidential Secretariat gave their approval to Vakarchuk on December 18, which allowed the Cabinet vote to go forward.

¶24. (C) At Lviv University, Vakarchuk was originally very popular, but we have heard complaints recently that he has become less democratic and more authoritarian policy in setting university policy. He has been good in his oversight

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of successful partnership programs between Lviv University and University of Oregon, Eugene, and Kansas University. We are hopeful that his appointment will bring positive changes to the Ministry, which is currently very conservative. Vakarchuk was born March 6, 1947 in Moldova, but has spent most of his life in Lviv.

Yuriy Prodan: Fuel and Energy (OU-PSD)

¶25. (C) Although Prodan is coming to the Cabinet from a position as Deputy Secretary of the NSDC, the bulk of his career has been in the energy sector. An electrical engineer by training, he has worked in various capacities at Kyivenergo and Ukrenego, both electricity generators, run Energorynok, the state enterprise that manages Ukraine's electricity market, and served as First Deputy Fuel Minister (2005-2006). Prodan also has a long and favorable track record as regulator of the National Electricity Regulation Commission (NERC), from 2001-2004. In his most recent government position at the NSDC, Prodan openly criticized Energy Minister Yuriy Boyko for his plans for Ukraine's energy market, which Prodan felt were thinly disguised attempts to privatize Ukraine's strategic energy assets. Unlike Boyko, Prodan does not have direct ties to the lucrative gas and oil industries, which might enable him to take on vested interests that currently dominate those sectors. Prodan has a reportedly excellent working relationship with Tymoshenko, and is considered to be extremely loyal to the President. Local newspapers have dubbed Prodan as the Presidential Secretariat's "Man," due to Prodan's pro-presidential stance. He was educated at Kyiv Polytechnic Institute, considered one of the best institutions of higher learning in Ukraine. Prodan was born January 27, 1959 in Norilsk, Russia.

Vasyl Vovkun: Culture and Tourism (OU-PSD)

¶26. (SBU) Vovkun is a distinguished director and screenwriter from Lviv. Although Vovkun directed Yushchenko's presidential inauguration in 2005 and has run the official Independence Day celebrations for the past three years, he has turned down offers from Yushchenko to become a

presidential adviser. He has been quoted in the press as saying that he "took part in the Orange Revolution as a conscientious citizen without expecting ... rewards from the victors," and that he felt great about not having succumbed to the temptation to become a high-ranking bureaucrat. Vovkun was born June 14, 1957 in Lviv.

Volodymyr Shandra: Emergency Situations (OU-PSD)

127. (C) Shandra, who previously served as Minister of Industrial Policy under Tymoshenko and Yekhanurov, reportedly received his new position because he is the uncle of Yushchenko's son-in-law. The Ministry of Emergency Situations is often a desired position, because it has such a large budget. After completing his studies at the nuclear power plants department of Moscow Engineering Institute in 1987, Shandra went to work at the Khmelnytskyi power plant. In the 1990s, Shandra worked as a private entrepreneur and then ran a firm that produced roofing insulation materials. He only entered politics in 2002, when he joined the Rada as part of the OU faction. Shandra was born January 11, 1963 in Ternopil oblast.

Yuriy Pavlenko: Youth, Sports, and Family (OU-PSD)

128. (C) At 32, Pavlenko is a rising star in Our Ukraine. He is returning to the Ministry he ran from February 2005 until October 2007, when he resigned along with the rest of the orange ministers in the Yanukovych government. Pavlenko then accepted the governorship of Zhytomyr oblast, but we heard that he was unhappy being out of Kyiv politics, and we saw him periodically hanging out with friends at the Rada. Pavlenko was number 7 on OU-PSD's electoral list in the pre-term elections as part of an effort to get younger faces out in front of the campaign. In his previous tenure as minister, he was very helpful to us in solving problems regarding foreign adoptions and in increasing the Ministry's actions with regards to combating trafficking-in-persons. His staff told us that he has a genuine desire to understand the issues and was willing to invest the time to learn. However, they said his youth and political inexperience last time limited his ability to really take charge of many of the issues in his portfolio, which cross ministerial lines. During the 2004 presidential campaign, he ran Yushchenko's Donetsk

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headquarters. Pavlenko has degrees in history and public administration. His brother-in-law is Ruslan Knyazevych, also a young star in Our Ukraine and whose uncle is the new Minister of Health. He was born March 20, 1975 in Kyiv.

Volodymyr Novitskiy: Industrial Policy (BYuT)

129. (SBU) Novitskiy has worked in his field for a long time. From 1992-1995 he was a Deputy Industrial Policy Minister. He spent four years in Moscow, working on an economic policy committee for the CIS. In 2000-2001, he returned to Kyiv and led the State Committee for Industrial Policy. Then he served as Deputy Industrial Policy Minister in 2003-2005, and was reappointed deputy minister since 2006. He holds a PhD in technical science, specializing in the processing of oil and gas. He was born September 9, 1947 in Khmelnytskyi oblast.

Vasyl Kuybida: Regional Development and Building (OU-PSD)

130. (C) Kuybida served as mayor of Lviv from 1994-2002, where he was very popular. He worked with the National Democratic Institute to develop a strategic development plan for the city; NDI reported that although he listed carefully to consultants and set up a task force, he never followed

through on the recommendations. He has an antagonistic relationship with current Lviv Mayor Sadoviy, who accused Kuybida of corruption related to land sales and privatizations. Kuybida comes off as a "please everybody" type, who has succeeded well under both Kuchma and Yushchenko. He was vice president of both the Local and Regional Congress of Europe and the Ukrainian Association of Cities. Borys Tarasyuk, leader of Rukh -- one of the constituent parties in the OU-PSD bloc -- told us that Kuybida was the only minister from Rukh on the OU-PSD quota in the Cabinet. Kuybida's official bio on the web reports that he served as vice President of MAUP, the commuter college known for its dissemination of anti-Semitic information, from 2002-2005, a position created especially for him. Kuybida studied applied mathematics at Ivan Franko University in Lviv and also at the National Institute for Governance and Self-Defense. He was born into a family of political prisoners in Komi, Russia May 8, 1958.

Oleksiy Kucherenko: Housing and Utilities (OU-PSD)

131. (SBU) Kucherenko, a longtime MP from OU, most recently served as the head of a subcommittee on the Rada committee for Housing and Communal Services. He was first elected to the Rada in 1998, but left in 2000 to become governor of Zaporizhzhya. He then went into private business, returning to the government in 2005 as a member of the State Committee for Housing and Utilities. He rejoined the Rada in 2006 as a member of OU. Kucherenko holds degrees in information technology and public administration. Kucherenko was born April 3, 1961 in Vinnitsya, although he grew up in Poltava.

Viktor Poltavets: Coal Industry (BYuT)

132. (SBU) Poltavets currently heads the Luhansk Giproshakht state enterprise after previously serving as Minister of Coal Industry during Soviet times. Poltavets began as a low level mine worker, working his way up to coal mine director, then director of several larger coal mining concerns. Poltavets is politically unaffiliated. He was born in 1937 in Luhansk oblast, and at 70 is the cabinet's oldest member.

Hryhoriy Filipchuk: Environment (BYuT)

133. (SBU) Filipchuk appears to have almost no background in ecological issues, and seems to have received his position because he was the head of Tymoshenko's campaign headquarters for Vinnitsya Oblast in the last elections. By profession, he was a history teacher, who went into education management and then politics. He had a seat in the Rada from 1994-2002, while concurrently serving as governor of Chernivtsi from 1996-1998. His one brush with environmental issues was as Chairman of the Rada Environmental Policy Committee in 1997-1998. After leaving the Rada, Filipchuk went back to education issues, working at the Ministry and then serving as the General Director of the Ukrainian National Center for Standards and Certification in 2005. Filipchuk was born December 19, 1950 in Chernivtsi oblast.

Petro Krupko: Cabinet of Ministers (BYuT)

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134. (SBU) Krupko held the same post under Tymoshenko's previous government in 2005; when the government collapsed, he moved to become First Deputy Justice Minister. Krupko headed the Cabinet of Minister's legal department in 1996 under PM Lazarenko, and was Deputy Minister of the Cabinet when Yushchenko was PM in 2000. In that latter position, Krupko drafted the constitutional amendments that President Kuchma later put to referendum. He was elected to the Rada for the first time in 2007, on the BYuT list. Tymoshenko has

publicly dubbed Krupko as the ideal minister. In his first tour as minister, we found Krupko helpful on investment dispute issues. Krupko was born March 5, 1958.

Lyudmila Denisova: Labor and Social Policy (BYuT)

¶35. (SBU) Denisova was the former Minister of Finance for Crimea who was briefly detained and arrested in 2000 for "abuse of authority" while carrying out her mandate. The matter was quickly closed, and Denisova became a strident critic of both the Prosecutor's Office and Tax Authorities, regularly criticizing them for ruining Ukraine's financial system. Denisova also served on the Labor and Social policy Committee in the Crimean Rada and has a degree in this field.

Tymoshenko introduced her as the leader in the fight for pension reform, a key plank in Tymoshenko's election campaign. Denisova is 47 years old.

¶36. (U) Visit Embassy Kyiv's classified website:
www.state.sgov.gov/p/eur/kiev.
Taylor